



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Jeffrey A. Taylor  
United States Attorney**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Former AARP Director of Events Pleads Guilty in Scheme to Defraud AARP Out of Over \$140,000**

WASHINGTON – Former AARP Director of Events Bruce A. Sanders, 54, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today before Judge Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to one count of Transportation of Stolen Property, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Gregory Campbell, Jr., U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge of the Washington Division.

Sanders faces between 12 and 18 months of incarceration under the voluntary federal sentencing guidelines. As part of his plea, Sanders agreed to pay \$140,079.16 in restitution to AARP. He is scheduled to be sentenced on September 18, 2009.

According to the charging documents, from November 2006 through February 2007, Sanders used his position as AARP Director of Events to arrange for AARP to enter into three contracts, valued at up to \$315,000, with a company that purported to provide event production services. Unbeknownst to AARP, that company was really a “sham” corporation used by Sanders to obtain money from AARP without disclosing that he was the actual recipient, in violation of AARP’s conflict of interest policy. In fact, Sanders controlled the “sham” corporation’s finances and his signature was the only authorized signature on its bank account at Bank of America.

Sanders wrote thousands of dollars of checks on the “sham” corporation’s bank account to himself and another company that he owned. The “sham” corporation had only one client, AARP, and used a private post office box as its address. Furthermore, Sanders was in a romantic relationship with the nominal head of the “sham” corporation, who was in his early twenties and had no appreciable experience in the field of event productions.

In total, Sanders obtained \$140,079.16 from AARP through his fraudulent scheme. In conjunction with this scheme, in September 2007, Sanders transported a \$10,000 AARP check written to the “sham” corporation from AARP headquarters in Washington, D.C., to Boston, Massachusetts.

Page 2

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor and U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge Campbell commended the outstanding investigative work of U.S. Postal Inspector Christopher Saunders. They also acknowledged the efforts of Legal Assistant Jamasee M. Lucas and Assistant U.S. Attorney David S. Johnson.

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